

Fig. 3-4 HISTORIC & ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3 Intrinsic Qualities Historic & Archaeological Resource Assessment

Historic Intrinsic Qualities

Within the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor are places associated with every period of American history, from the first meetings of Native Americans with Euro-Americans to the 21st century. Numerous individual sites and several entire districts within the corridor are included on the National Register of Historic Places, the Nation's official list of places and sites associated with significant people and events in American history.

Pennsylvania Avenue is among the major streets of the Pierre L'Enfant's 1791 Plan of Washington. This Plan is the only American example of a comprehensive Baroque city plan with a coordinated system of radiating avenues, parks, and vistas, overlaid upon an orthogonal grid of streets. This plan is intimately related to the establishment of the United States and the creation of a symbolic and innovative capital city. The design was magnified through the urban improvements of the 1901 McMillan Commission, resulting in the most elegant example of City Beautiful tenets in the nation. L'Enfant's Plan has served as the setting for national political expression and events, and has influenced the planning of American cities and other nation's capitals.

Part of Pennsylvania Avenue was designated as the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site in 1965 and added to the National Register in 1966. The designated section is the length of the Avenue between Third Street NW on the east, Constitution Avenue on the south, the former East Executive Avenue (now a walkway between the White House and the Treasury) on the west, and E and F Streets NW on the north. Due to the Avenue's then-blighted state, Congress created the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation to plan and carry out the Avenue's revitalization. Today, the Corporation's efforts are complete, and Pennsylvania Avenue is a diverse, vital area, which more than 270,000 people visited in 1999.

In addition to the most famous civic building in the nation, the United States Capitol, the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor features other important regional and national civic monuments, such as the Old Post Office, the National Archives, and the Supreme Court. Historic houses, such as the Little White House, the Maples, and the Blair House balance corridor's civic presence. Designated Historic Districts include the Foggy Bottom Historic District, the Financial District/15th Street Historic District, and the Capitol Hill Historic District. There are also historic and commemorative features, such as the statue of General George Washington in Washington Circle and the historic Congressional Cemetery, resting place of famous Washingtonians. The corridor also features Forts Dupont, Davis, and Stanton, three of the 63 Civil War fortifications that encircled the Federal City to defend against Confederate attack.

Archaeological Intrinsic Qualities

Archaeological excavations and other research have been conducted in areas on or adjacent to the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor. For example, excavations at the White House grounds and the Washington Monument grounds uncovered prehistoric sites from late archaic period, which yielded artifacts such as flakes, projectile points and a half-grooved axe.

Significant artifacts are or will be displayed at the National Museum of Natural History and the new National Museum of the American Indian. Likewise, many artifacts have been discovered on the banks of the Anacostia River and await interpretation.

Notable HISTORIC/ ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES at a Glance

- Foggy Bottom Historic District
- Washington Circle
- The Octagon
- Monroe House
- Blair House
- White House and Grounds (Ellipse, Lafayette Square)
- Federal Triangle
- John A. Wilson Government Building
- Old Post Office
- Pennsylvania Ave. National Historic Site
- National Archives
- Ford's Theatre
- National Council of Negro Women
- National Museum of Natural History
- National Museum of the American Indian
- Financial/15th Street Historic District
- Downtown Historic District
- US Capitol and Grounds
- United States Supreme Court
- Library of Congress
- Capitol Hill Historic District
- Ebenezer United Methodist Church
- Eastern Market
- Maples/Friendship House
- Old Naval Hospital
- Congressional Cemetery
- Engine Company No. 19 Firehouse
- Little White House
- Fort Circle Parks

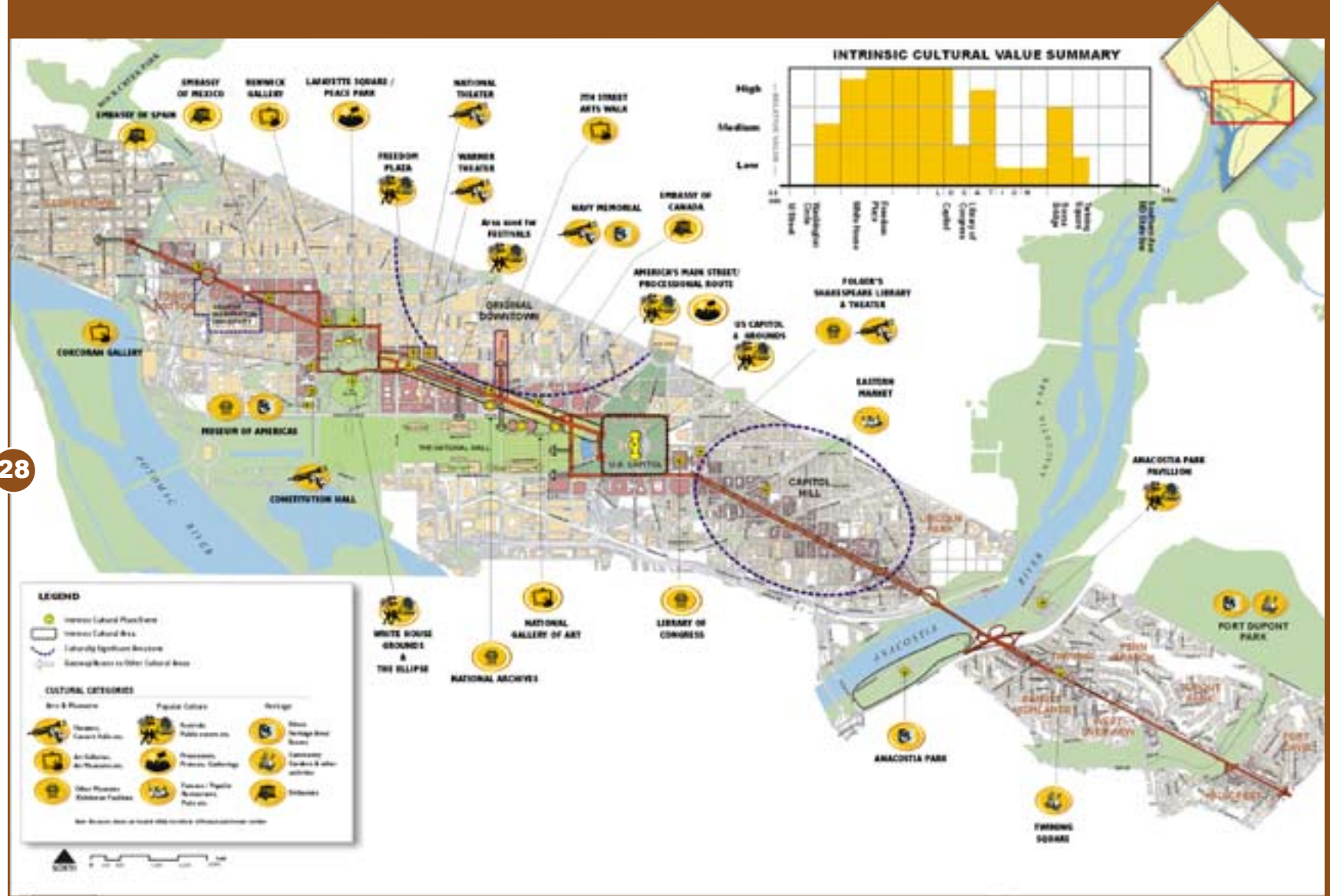


Fig. 3-5

CULTURAL INTRINSIC RESOURCES

Intrinsic Qualities
Cultural Resource Assessment

Pennsylvania Avenue is a showcase of local and national culture, manifested in theaters, festival sites, museums, monuments, art galleries, venues for music concerts, parks for protests, vigils, and rallies. Together, these places reflect the great diversity of the American people as well as their common heritage.

The Avenue features national repositories of American cultural resources. For example, the National Archives displays America's most famous political, social and cultural artifacts and most important national documents. The Library of Congress, which is the largest library in the world, is the holding area for American works of literature. Furthermore, the Folger's Shakespeare Library and Theater features America's most extensive collection of Shakespeare's works.

Embassies provide a unique sense of culture on Pennsylvania Avenue; not only do they represent the presence of other cultures but they also illustrate the distinct diplomatic relationships that the United States has with other countries. The embassies of Spain, Mexico and Canada all have addresses on the corridor.

The Avenue has a wealth of galleries, museums, and concert halls that features the arts and culture. The National Gallery of Art is the national showcase for art, but the Corcoran and Renwick Galleries also feature well-known collections of American Art. Constitution Hall hosts famous American musicians. Likewise, live theater is well represented on the corridor: the Warner and National Theaters offer the latest Broadway shows, concerts, comedy, and other cultural performances. Numerous memorials line the Avenue, the largest of which is the Navy Memorial. Nearby, the National Mall is the location of many monuments and memorials, including those to Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln.

As the widest street in the city and the shortest route between the White House and Capitol, L'Enfant intended Pennsylvania Avenue to be used for parades and ceremonies. Over the years, the Avenue has functioned as the Nation's "Ceremonial Way" - the Presidential Inaugural Parade follows the route; national heroes, returning troops, and foreign leaders have been honored with parades on the Avenue; and countless citizens have marched on the Avenue to support or protest a variety of causes. The Avenue often closes itself to vehicular traffic to host festivals and charity walk-a-thons. In addition to the avenue itself, there are many nearby areas that host protests, parades, and other ceremonies, such as Peace Park and Freedom Plaza. The White House Grounds and Ellipse, US Capitol Grounds, and National Mall are famous sites for national concerts and events, many of which are televised to the American public.

The Historic downtown, located between the White House and the Capitol, was once the heart of political, social, and commercial life in the Nation's Capital. Daniel Webster's home and office stood across the street from the Old City Hall, and Walt Whitman nursed Civil War wounded in the Patent Office, now the National Portrait Gallery. In this central part of the city, thousands of newcomers to Washington - Jews, Germans, Chinese, Greeks, Italians, and many others - established local shops and restaurants, often living above their enterprises. Their religious structures remain as monuments to their historic presence and offer a fascinating social history.

In addition to the Downtown area, the corridor has other areas for the celebration of ethnic heritage, such as Anacostia Park and Fort Dupont Park. These areas host community events, including cookouts, concerts, family reunions, and candlelight vigils. Likewise, Fort Dupont Park and Twining Square, which are venues for community gardening, are important cultural places.

Notable CULTURAL RESOURCES at a Glance

- Embassy of Spain
- Embassy of Mexico
- Corcoran Gallery
- Renwick Gallery
- Museum of the Americas
- DAR Constitution Hall
- Lafayette Park/ Peace Park
- White House Grounds and Ellipse
- Freedom Plaza
- National Theatre
- Warner Theatre
- National Archives
- 7th Street Arts Walk
- Navy Memorial
- National Gallery of Art
- Embassy of Canada
- America's Main Street/Processional Route
- US Capitol and Grounds
- Library of Congress
- Folger's Shakespeare Library & Theater
- Eastern Market
- Anacostia Park and Pavilion
- Twining Square
- Fort Dupont Park

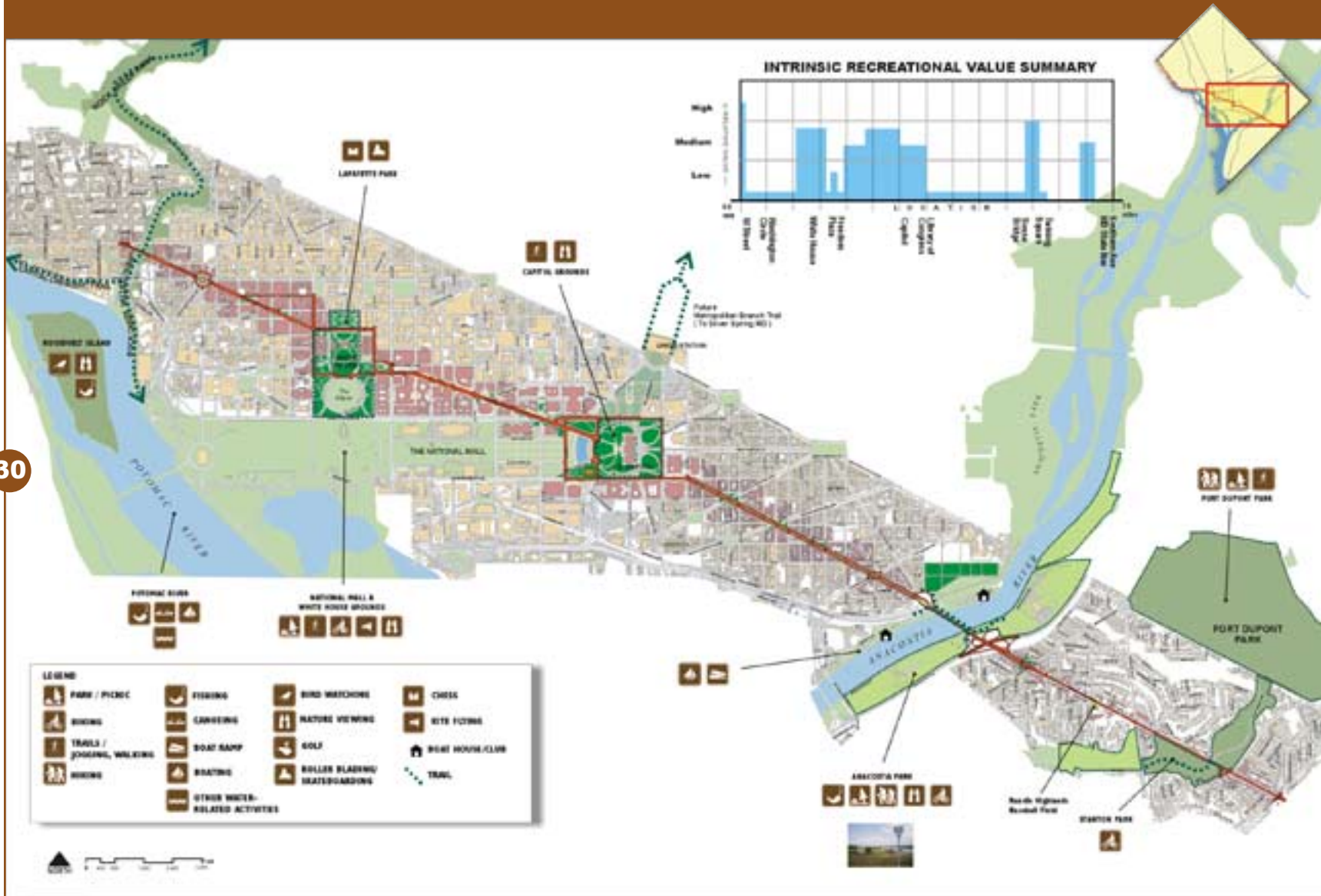


Fig. 3-6 **RECREATIONAL INTRINSIC RESOURCES**

3 Intrinsic Qualities Recreational Resource Assessment

Visitors do not generally come to Washington, DC solely for recreational activities. But a surprising variety of activities are available along the Pennsylvania Avenue Scenic Byway, and some are unique, such as the opportunity to throw a frisbee on the National Mall, fly a kite next to the Washington Monument, or roller-blade in front of the White House.

While Randle Highlands is the only designated city Recreation Center located directly on the Avenue, the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor offers many opportunities for informal recreation. One can hike in Dupont Park, jog or walk around the Capitol Grounds, ride bicycles in Anacostia Park, and roller blade in Lafayette Park. The corridor has a few formal and informal trails for hiking and biking, such as the Capital Crescent Trail, Rock Creek Valley Trail, a trail in Stanton Park, a trail across the Sousa Bridge, and the planned Metropolitan Branch Trail by Union Station.

The Potomac and Anacostia Rivers offer many opportunities for water recreation, such as fishing, boating, and canoeing. Conveniently located boat clubs and ramps help the traveler enjoy these activities.

Pennsylvania Avenue also has many opportunities to enjoy passive recreation, such as playing chess in Lafayette Park, and flying kites and picnicking on the National Mall. Even nature walks and bird-watching can be rewarding within the urban setting of the Nation's Capital, in such places as Roosevelt Island and Anacostia Park.

Not all of the activities must be enjoyed in months with fair weather, either. In the winter, there is ice skating in Pershing Park and in the Sculpture Garden on the National Mall at Constitution Avenue, across from the National Archives.



Randle Highlands Recreation Center



Anacostia Boat Slips

Notable RECREATIONAL RESOURCES at a Glance

- Rock Creek Park
- Lafayette Park
- The National Mall
- The Ellipse
- The Capitol Grounds
- Anacostia Park Boathouses
- Anacostia Park
- Randall Highlands Recreation Center
- Fort Dupont Park
- Fort Davis Park